

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action dated April 4, 2005, and the references cited therein. In response, applicant has amended claims 3, 12, and 15; canceled, without prejudice, claim 14; and added new claim 17 to further define the invention. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments. Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the pending Office Action, claims 1-2 and 4-11 were allowed. The Office Action also indicated that claims 14-16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including any intervening claim. Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 as being indefinite inasmuch as claim 3 depended from itself. Claims 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated.

Without acquiescing in any way to the substantive rejections made in the Office Action and merely to expedite the prosecution of the subject matter that the Office Action indicated is allowable, applicant has canceled, without prejudice, claim 14 and amended claims 12 and 15. In particular, claim 12 was amended to incorporate the substance of claim 14 therein. As such, currently amended claim 12 is allowable. Claim 14 was thus canceled as redundant. Claim 15 was amended to change its dependency to claim 12. Thus, claims 12, 13, 15, and 16 are allowable. In addition, applicant has amended claim 3 to change its dependency and has added new claim 17 to further define the invention.

The application is considered to be in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul J. Filbin, Reg. No. 51,677
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6780
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

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